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Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

Hong Kong

On October 20, 2000, the Hong Kong Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) announced that, as part of its routine testing of H.K. chicken flocks, it had detected antibodies to the H5 virus in a flock of 10,000 chickens at a farm in H.K. AFCD has already completed sample tests for the H₅ virus in the remaining 120 local chicken farms, with results showing no further signs of the bug. Antibodies could have been produced by reactions to a virus other than the H5 virus, reaction to a strain of H5 that causes disease, or reaction to a strain of H5 that does not cause disease. The health condition of the chickens indicated that the virus was less powerful than the H5N1 strain which was the culprit in the bird flu virus of 1997.

The live chicken market has already experienced the impact. Reports in the papers claimed that retail business for live chickens slumped 70 percent on Saturday, October 21 following Friday's announcement. Prices dropped about 10 -20 percent. Sales are expected to quickly rebound if the test results show the chickens were not infected with H5. Chicken is a staple food for the Chinese community and the upcoming Chinese festivals will create strong demand for live chickens.

Source: USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service

JAPANESE FROZEN BROILER IMPORTS (IN TONS)

	United States	China	Brazil	Thailand	Total
1999					
June	8,315	18,614	8,198	11,380	46,507
July	6,340	18,928	10,378	10,072	45,718
*Total	58,397	116,387	50,054	73,635	298,473
2000					
June	8,225	19,367	7,966	11,168	46,726
July	9,460	18,377	10,155	10,217	48,209
*Total	50,234	127,165	63,724	73,963	315,086

*Totals are from January - July

Source: ALIC Monthly Statistics

Notices open for public comment in the Federal Register

Poultry Programs has published PY 00-001 Notice of Publication of U.S. Trade Description Tentative Standards for Poultry with Request for Comments. The U.S. Trade Descriptions for Poultry establish voluntary grade standards for ready-to-cook chicken products in the U.S. The descriptions are intended to facilitate wholesale trading of poultry by providing a tool to better communicate product and packaging requirements among buyers and sellers. Comments are requested regarding the descriptions effectiveness, ease of use and technical accuracy. You may view the actual notice. You can also view the proposed Trade Descriptions at www.ams.usda.gov/poultry/pdfs/tdppub.pdf. It is recommended that you view it with Adobe Acrobat 4.0. Additionally, individual monitor or printer settings may affect actual color in the photos.

To comment, use our on-line form or you may mail your comments to: David Bowden, Chief, Standardization Branch at

Growth of U.S. Poultry Exports

Before 1970, most poultry was bought by consumers as whole chickens and turkeys, and the export business was quite small. Today, exports account for almost one-sixth of U.S. poultry production. Chicken firms observed that American consumers were willing to pay much higher prices for white meat breasts than for dark meat thighs and drumsticks. They also noted that some products, such as chicken feet, could fetch a higher price in overseas markets than in domestic markets. To take advantage of these taste differences, chicken processors began offering proportionately more white meat to domestic consumers and dark meat and other products to overseas consumers.

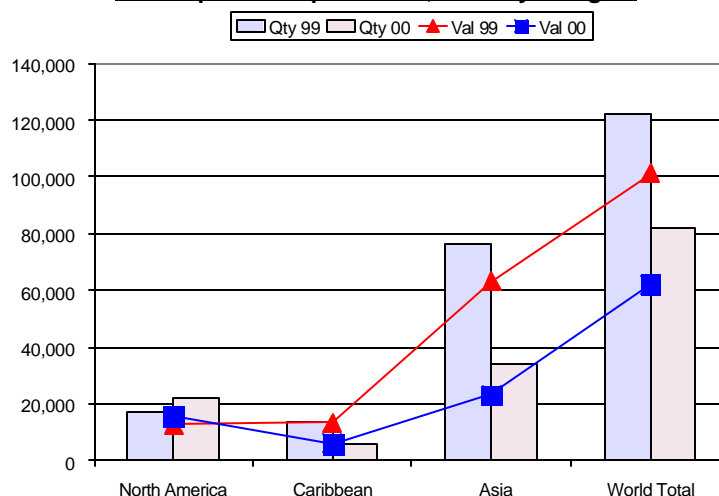
Exports of chicken began to take off after 1975. Before that time, the export market had never accounted for more than 5 percent of production. Exports consistently increased, reaching 5 billion pounds (17 percent of production) in 1997.

Net Poultry Exports in Million Pounds

	1960	1967	1972	1977	1982	1987	1992	1997	1999
Chicken	137	88	100	349	524	767	1,530	5,043	4,421
Turkey	24	49	36	54	51	33	202	605	400

Source: USDA/Economic Research Service, FoodReview

U.S. Exports of Spent Hens, January - August



Values in '000 dollars, Quantity in Metric Tons

For the first eight months of 2000, exports of spent hens dropped 33 percent in volume and 39 percent in value when compared to the same period in 1999. Exports to the Caribbean dropped from 14,187MT in 1999 to 5,848MT in 2000, mostly due to an 81 percent drop in exports to Haiti. Exports to the Former Soviet Union soared from 780 MT in 1999 to 7,632MT in 2000, mainly due to sharply higher exports to Latvia and Russia. Exports to Hong Kong dropped from 58,029MT to 24,255MT. Singapore had the only increase in exports to Asia, growing from 347MT to 2,837MT.

Source: USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service

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Inspected Egg Products-U.S. & Canada Export/Import Trade**U.S. Exports to Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)**

Week Ending Oct 28, 2000	2000	1999/1	Year-To-Date 2000	1999
Liquid	151	194	6,257	11,457
Frozen	0	0	198	6
Dried	7	0	503	504
Total	158	194	6,958	11,967

U.S. Imports From Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)

Week Ending Oct 28, 2000	2000	1999/1	Year-To-Date 2000	1999
Liquid	61	84	4,383	3,858
Frozen	33	16	744	470
Dried	14	0	752	169
Total	108	100	5,879	4,497

Inspected Shell Eggs**U.S Exports To Canada, In 30-Dozen Cases (Preliminary)**

Week Ending Oct 28, 2000	2000	1999/1	Year-To-Date 2000	1999
Jumbo	0	15	2,161	1,150
Extra Large	750	900	43,648	38,157
Large	0	4,360	123,467	127,785
Medium	750	1,613	29,996	42,637
Ungraded	8,850	15,990	342,334	543,743
Misc	0	532	10,137	10,722
Total	10,350	23,410	551,743	764,194

/1 Comparable Week, to-date figures may not total due to rounding.

Source: USDA/AMS Poultry Programs, Market News Branch in cooperation with Agriculture Canada, Poultry Development Division.

CENTRAL REGION PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN IN TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUMES, CENTS PER POUND FOR DELIVERY WITHIN TWO WEEKS. 03-NOV-00

CHICKEN PRICES

	-----FROZEN-----	-----FRESH-----
FAT	FOB DELIVERED	FOB DELIVERED
CONTENT	DOCK	DOCK
15% OR LESS		
RANGE	-	-
WTD AVERAGE		

0 pounds, this includes 0 pounds for export shipment.

CHICKEN PRICES, WITH ADDED SKIN

15% OR LESS				
RANGE	-	-	14.00	16.50
WTD AVERAGE			14.00	16.50

81,600 pounds, this includes 0 pounds for export shipment.

15-20%				
RANGE	15.50-18.00	15.00-22.00	10.75-14.00	13.00-14.00
WTD AVERAGE	17.47	20.36	11.40	13.54

3,359,200 pounds, this includes 2,604,400 pounds for export shipment.

20% OR MORE				
RANGE	-	-	-	-
WTD AVERAGE				

0 pounds, this includes 0 pounds for export shipment.

* INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING STATES: AL, AR, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MI, MN, MO, MS, ND, NE, OK, OH, SD, TN, TX, WI

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER INSPECTION W/E 28-Oct-00 (PRELIMINARY)**U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED DOMESTICALLY**

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
	THOUSANDS		
HEAD	1,829	1,492	3,321
LAST WEEK	1,463	1,813	3,276
SAME WEEK YR AGO	2,024	1,581	3,605
TO-DATE/2000	81,624	62,695	144,319
TO-DATE/1999	89,552	60,983	150,535

U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN CANADA

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
	THOUSANDS		
HEAD	391	8	399
LAST WEEK	347	6	353
SAME WEEK YR AGO	459	20	479
TO-DATE/2000	19,760	318	20,078
TO-DATE/1999	19,906	267	20,173

SOURCE: AGRICULTURE CANADA, POULTRY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

TOTAL U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN THE U.S. AND CANADA

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
	THOUSANDS		
HEAD	2,220	1,500	3,720
LAST WEEK	1,810	1,819	3,629
SAME WEEK YR AGO	2,483	1,601	4,084
TO-DATE/2000	101,384	63,013	164,397
TO-DATE/1999	109,458	61,250	170,708

EASTERN REGION PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN IN TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUMES, CENTS PER POUND FOR DELIVERY WITHIN TWO WEEKS. 03-NOV-00

CHICKEN PRICES

	-----FROZEN-----	-----FRESH-----
FAT	FOB DELIVERED	FOB DELIVERED
CONTENT	DOCK	DOCK
15% OR LESS		
RANGE	18.00	-
WTD AVERAGE	18.00	

240,000 pounds, this includes 0 pounds for export shipment.

CHICKEN PRICES, WITH ADDED SKIN

15% OR LESS				
RANGE	16.00-19.00	18.00	-	17.00-18.00
WTD AVERAGE	16.55	18.00		17.31

813,000 pounds, this includes 248,000 pounds for export shipment.

15-20%				
RANGE	16.00-18.50	18.00	13.00	14.00
WTD AVERAGE	17.72	18.00	13.00	14.00

1,745,000 pounds, this includes 1,385,000 pounds for export shipment.

20% OR MORE				
RANGE	-	-	-	13.00
WTD AVERAGE				13.00

400,000 pounds, this includes 0 pounds for export shipment.

INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING STATES: CT, DE, FL, GA, MA, MD, ME, NC, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, SC, VA, VT, WV

NATIONAL YOUNG TURKEY PARTS AND BULK MEAT

FROZEN (UNLESS SPECIFIED), CENTS PER LB., DELIVERED FIRST RECEIVERS, PART AND FULL TRUCKLOTS
NOVEMBER 03, 2000

Trade sentiment mixed on tom full-cut wings with some buyers noting offering prices at 23-25 cents delivered West Coast and others not seeing the weakness in the Midwest and East. Tom drum trade sentiment steady to weak, mostly steady to barely steady. Demand on tom drums light to fair for the mostly adequate to fully adequate supplies. Offerings of mature hen drums exceed demand, young hen drums light to adequate. Trade sentiment steady to firm on tom necks for the limited offerings. Frozen thigh meat trade sentiment steady to firm for slow to moderate demand. Domestic trading centered on moderately light volumes of fresh tom breast meat at steady to lower trending price levels and on fresh 15-20% mechanically separated turkey. Export trading light and centered on tom drums.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 03, 2000**EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)	WEEKLY WTD AVG PRICE	WEEKLY VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS	27.50-28.50		28.00	224	28.22	544
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS		R	25.00	22	26.29	62
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM	26.00		26.00	104	26.00	104
TAILS		R	22.00	40	22.00	40
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 4/	21.00		21.00	104	22.04	604
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN	74.00		74.00	160	73.18	440

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 02, 2000**EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS	28.00-29.50		28.50	240
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS	25.00		25.00	22
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM				
TAILS	22.00		22.00	40
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 4/	21.00-22.75		22.44	292
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN	70.00-74.00		72.60	200

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 01, 2000**EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS	28.00		28.00	80
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS	27.00		27.00	40
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM				
TAILS		F	22.00	80
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 4/	22.00		22.00	208
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN	73.00		73.00	80

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2000**EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS		F	29.65	400
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS				
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM				
TAILS		F	22.00	80
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 4/		R	21.00	52
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN		R	72.06	640

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2000**EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS		F	29.65	400
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS				
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM				
TAILS		F	22.00	80
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 4/		R	21.00	52
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN		R	72.06	640

1/ CODES FOR LAST SIGNIFICANT TRADE (L.S.T.): M=MONDAY T=TUESDAY W=WEDNESDAY R=THURSDAY F=FRIDAY

2/ Product contains 15-20% fat with skin added.

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